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United Nations Office for Partnerships

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly decisions 52/466 and 53/475, wherein the Secretary-General was requested to inform the Assembly, on a regular basis, about the activities of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. It supplements the information contained in the previous reports of the Secretary-General (most recently, A/71/159).

The United Nations Office for Partnerships strives to serve as a gateway for public-private partnerships to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Office oversees the areas set out below.

The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) was established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system. At the end of 2016, the cumulative allocations as approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects to be implemented by the United Nations system had reached approximately $1.4 billion. Of this amount, it is estimated that $0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds contributed by Ted Turner and $0.99 billion (about 69 per cent) was generated as co-financing from other partners. The total number of United Nations projects and programmes supported up to the end of 2016 by the Foundation through UNFIP stood at 618, implemented by 48 United Nations entities in 127 countries.

The United Nations Democracy Fund was established by the Secretary-General in July 2005 to support democratization around the world. It focuses on strengthening the voice of civil society, promoting human rights and ensuring the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Through the Fund, the Office has channelled some $166 million to nearly 700 projects in more than 130 countries, ranging from strengthening civil society leadership skills and promoting the participation of women and young people to media programmes that enable civil society to project its voice.

The Office also provides partnership advisory and outreach services in response to demand from the United Nations system, Governments and non-State actors to provide advice on, guide and facilitate partnership events and initiatives in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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Contents

		Page
I.	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships	3
	A. Global health	4
	B. Women, girls and population	6
	C. Energy and climate	8
	D. Advocacy, communications and other United Nations support	8
II.	United Nations Democracy Fund	12
	A. Tenth round of funding	13
	B. Donor base	13
	C. Evaluation	13
	D. Governance	14
	E. Eleventh round of funding	14
	F. Democracy in action	14
III.	Partnership advisory and outreach services	15
IV.	Conclusions	17
Annexes		
I.	United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects	18
II.	Projects approved by the United Nations Foundation in 2016 and in prior years, by programme area	20
III.	Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2016	21
IV.	Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 27 March 2017	22
V.	Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2016	24

I. United Nations Fund for International Partnerships

1. The United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP) is a United Nations trust fund established in 1998 to serve as the interface between the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations system in support of high-impact projects implemented throughout the world by agencies of the United Nations system. Its work is overseen by the UNFIP Advisory Board, which is chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General.

2. The United Nations Foundation was founded by an entrepreneur and philanthropist, Ted Turner, as a public charity in the United States of America to channel Mr. Turner's historic $1 billion gift to support United Nations causes and activities.

3. As at 31 December 2016, the cumulative allocations approved by the Foundation for UNFIP projects had reached approximately $1.4 billion, of which $0.45 billion (about 31 per cent) represents core funds from Mr. Turner and $0.96 billion (about 69 per cent) represents co-financing from other partners. Since its inception, 618 projects have been implemented or are under implementation by 48 United Nations entities in 127 countries. In 2016, the Foundation approved projects totalling $28.5 million, the majority ($22.8 million) focused on global health. The selection of projects and initiatives supported by the Foundation through UNFIP is highlighted herein.

4. The Relationship Agreement between the United Nations and the United Nations Foundation, as established in 1998, has been renewed twice, first in 2007 and again in 2014, when the partnership was renewed for an additional 10-year period under a revised and restated relationship agreement, as noted previously (see A/70/202). The Joint Coordination Committee, established under the new agreement, is the principal forum to ensure strong and timely communication and coordination between the United Nations and the Foundation. The Committee normally meets twice per year, as it did in 2016.

Support for innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives

5. The Foundation works in close collaboration with the United Nations to foster innovative partnerships, campaigns and initiatives to advance priorities, including the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and acceleration of climate action. The present report is organized according to the long-standing programmatic priorities of the Foundation. In anticipation of the shift to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and with the then impending leadership transition at the United Nations, the Foundation Board of Directors approved a strategy in November 2016 focused on five overarching priorities that inform the Foundation's larger purpose: investing in United Nations leadership; accelerating action on the Sustainable Development Goals and climate change; mobilizing diverse constituencies for change; deepening the support of the United Nations by the United States; and cultivating fresh thinking and ideas for United Nations support.

6. To advance these priorities, the Foundation relies on the following range of tools to support the United Nations:

(a) **Channelling.** The Foundation continues to work with a wide range of stakeholders to mobilize and channel financial resources to the United Nations system through UNFIP;

(b) **Convening.** The Foundation collaborates with various United Nations entities to bring stakeholders together and foster dialogue on a range of issues,

including, in 2016, the lead-up to important milestone events, including the World Humanitarian Summit and the high-level political forum on sustainable development;

(c) **Communicating.** The Foundation deploys a diverse set of communications tools to build informed public support for the United Nations and to give wider visibility to issues high on the Organization's agenda. This work is conducted in close collaboration with the Department of Public Information and other communications experts across the United Nations system;

(d) **Championing.** The Foundation champions the work of the United Nations through global and United States-based advocacy initiatives that connect citizens to the United Nations. The Foundation helps to foster a common understanding about the mission of the United Nations and also to ensure strong and sustained support by the Government of the United States for the United Nations;

(e) **Collaborating.** The Foundation has become an institutional home for a number of multi-stakeholder initiatives in support of the sustainable development priorities of the United Nations, including the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Family Planning 2020, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Data2X and the Digital Impact Alliance.

A. Global health

7. Since its inception, the Foundation has worked in close collaboration with UNFIP, the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other United Nations entities to address key global health priorities, including the elimination of preventable diseases such as poliomyelitis, measles, rubella and malaria, and has engaged in advocacy regarding the health and well-being of women, children and adolescents.

Measles and rubella

8. Established in 2001, the Measles and Rubella Initiative is a global partnership committed to reducing measles deaths and limiting the number of children born with congenital rubella syndrome. It is jointly led by WHO, UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the United Nations Foundation. The aim of the Initiative is to advance the Global Measles and Rubella Strategic Plan 2012-2020 by helping countries to increase vaccination coverage for measles, rubella and other preventable diseases; fund, plan, implement and monitor high-quality supplementary campaigns; investigate outbreaks; and provide technical and financial support for effective disease surveillance and outbreak response.

9. In 2016, the Initiative undertook a midterm review of the Strategic Plan to help to focus its work going forward in the most strategic way. It recognized that significant progress had been made towards measles and rubella elimination since 2001, but noted that deeper progress had been affected by competing priorities and the resulting insufficient resources. It recommended stronger collaboration with the GAVI Alliance and greater focus on improving immunization systems — which might require adjusting measles and rubella elimination goals — in order to ensure that gains in measles and rubella control could be sustained.

10. The role of the Foundation in the Initiative focuses on advocacy and resource mobilization, and it also serves as a fiduciary. The Foundation's Shot@Life campaign, for example, engages with civil society, policymakers and partners to reduce vaccine-preventable childhood deaths by supporting the efforts of UNICEF and WHO in that regard. The campaign is also used to educate, connect with and empower the public in the United States to champion vaccines and their country's bilateral funding for measles and rubella initiatives. During 2016, more than $21 million was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF and WHO in support of activities of the Initiative around the world.

11. In 2016, the Foundation continued its multi-year partnership on Shot@Life with Walgreens, a leading pharmacy chain in the United States, to raise awareness and help to provide vaccines to children in developing countries through a campaign. From September 2016 to August 2017, for every vaccine administered in the United States at Walgreens or Duane Reade pharmacies, an amount equivalent to the price of one vaccine is being donated to the Shot@Life campaign. With the support of Walgreens customers, the campaign has helped to provide more than 15 million polio and measles vaccines since its inception in 2012.

Poliomyelitis

12. The Foundation has been a long-standing supporter of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a public-private partnership led by five core partners: the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary International, UNICEF, WHO and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Since its inception in 1988, the Initiative has immunized more than 2.5 billion children worldwide and raised over $10 billion with the goal of creating a polio-free world. The Foundation supports the Initiative through global and United States-focused advocacy, communications and public outreach and the provision of grants to United Nations partners.

13. The work of the Foundation on polio is guided by the annual strategy and workplan of the Initiative's Polio Advocacy and Communication Team. Similarly to the Measles and Rubella Initiative, the Foundation leverages the Shot@Life campaign to educate, connect with and empower the United States public to champion vaccines and their country's bilateral funding for polio eradication initiatives.

14. During 2016, a grant of $761,013 was disbursed by the Foundation through UNFIP to UNICEF to support polio eradication initiatives in the Lake Chad region. Building on a grant provided in 2015, an additional $203,773 was disbursed through UNFIP to UNICEF in order to purchase and distribute 4,516,148 doses of oral polio vaccine for children under 5 years of age in Afghanistan. Both of these grants were made in the wider context of the Polio Eradication and Endgame Strategic Plan 2013-2018, with funds also raised through the Shot@Life campaign.

Malaria

15. Since 2004, the Foundation has engaged with the United Nations and other partners to facilitate bednet distribution to combat the spread of malaria. For more than a decade, the work of the Foundation on malaria has been through Nothing But Nets, a global grass-roots campaign to raise awareness and funding to combat malaria through the provision of bednets and other malaria interventions. It enables individuals to join the fight against malaria by purchasing and sending bednets to malaria-affected communities and engaging in advocacy with policymakers in relation to increased United States investment in malaria interventions.

16. Nothing But Nets works primarily with UNICEF and UNHCR to purchase insecticide-treated bednets and distribute them to affected countries in Africa.

Bednet distributions are typically part of a wider public health effort within a country coordinated by the ministry responsible for health, the United Nations and other local and international organizations.

17. In 2016, the Foundation provided grants through UNFIP to UNICEF of $352,994 and $230,000 to implement malaria prevention projects in the Central African Republic and South Sudan, respectively. The projects helped to support the implementation of the national malaria control programmes by ensuring the provision of 360,000 and 85,000 insecticide-treated bednets, respectively, to pregnant women and children under 5 years of age.

18. The Foundation also provided $336,420 through UNFIP to support an emergency malaria prevention project of UNHCR targeting refugee populations in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The grant was accompanied by a parallel in-kind donation of 475,000 insecticide-treated bednets and enabled UNHCR to reach 950,000 beneficiaries while also implementing malaria prevention education and awareness-raising activities.

B. Women, girls and population

19. Throughout its existence, the Foundation has worked with United Nations partners, including UNFPA, UN-Women, UNICEF and UNHCR, to promote gender equality, improve maternal health, advance sexual and reproductive health and rights, including family planning, advocate stronger support for rights of adolescent girls and eliminate gender-based violence. All those issues are now central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Girl Up campaign

20. In September 2010, in response to calls by the United Nations and other actors for intensified efforts to address the needs and rights of adolescent girls, the Foundation launched Girl Up, an advocacy and fundraising campaign that engages with adolescent girls across the United States and around the world to improve the lives of other adolescent girls. The campaign has inspired more than 1,425 Girl Up clubs in 90 countries, in which members learn about the issues faced by adolescent girls and take action to address them.

21. In 2016, through campaign partners and fundraising efforts, the Foundation provided a grant of $250,000 through UNFIP to continue its support for the UNFPA Action for Adolescent Girls initiative in India. This initiative seeks to protect adolescent girls' rights, in particular by delaying the age at which they marry and bear children, empowering the most marginalized girls and elevating their status in their communities. The programme uses an evidenced-based approach aimed at strengthening "protective assets" for girls (e.g., health, social and economic assets) focusing on the most marginalized populations.

22. The Foundation also provided UNFPA with a grant of $200,000 in support of a second-chance schooling programme in Guatemala to promote the rights and leadership of indigenous adolescent girls and to assist in providing them with the skills necessary to actively participate in making decisions that affect their lives. The implementing partners for this initiative include UNFPA and the Population Council.

23. Moreover, the Girl Up campaign provided $500,000 through UNFIP for a joint programme to accelerate efforts to advance the rights of adolescent girls in Liberia, jointly implemented by UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA, the United Nations Educational,

Scientific and Cultural Organization and UN-Women. The aim of the programme is to empower the most vulnerable and at-risk girls by equipping them with livelihood and life skills, improving their health services, reducing the prevalence of harmful traditional practices and violence against girls and ensuring adolescent-friendly and child-friendly communities.

24. Through the Girl Up campaign, the Foundation also provided UNHCR with a $500,000 grant, through UNFIP, in support of the Educate a Child programme implemented in Ethiopia and Uganda with a focus on adolescent girls. As the global refugee protection agency, UNHCR is responsible for ensuring that refugee children have access to a good quality of education in their countries of asylum. Among other activities, the grant supported the building and equipping of additional classrooms and the recruitment and training of new teachers. Since 2012, the Educate a Child programme has enabled more than 266,000 refugee children to have access to primary schools in 12 countries through UNHCR and its partners.

25. The Girl Up campaign also facilitated an additional Foundation grant of $100,000 to UNHCR, through UNFIP, in support of a project within its education strategy to advance the education of Somali refugee girls in the three refugee camps in Jijiga, Ethiopia. The one-year project began in November 2016 and will increase the educational performance of girls in both primary and secondary education by strengthening girls clubs — using the established girl-friendly spaces approach — and empowering girls to play a meaningful role in community leadership and management.

Family Planning 2020

26. Family Planning 2020 is a global partnership that works with Governments, civil society, multilateral organizations, the private sector and the research and development community to enable 120 million more women and girls to use contraceptives by 2020. It was an outcome of the London Summit on Family Planning, in 2012, where more than 20 Governments made commitments to address the policy, financing, delivery and sociocultural barriers to women's access to contraceptive information, services and supplies. More than 90 formal commitments have been made to the partnership since its launch.

27. The core principle is that all women, no matter where they live, should have access to life-saving contraceptives. The vision is for it to serve as an inclusive and results-oriented partnership that works with a diverse group of stakeholders and experts to accelerate action and to address the most significant global and country-level barriers to progress towards the goals of the initiative. The United Nations Foundation serves as the secretariat for the partnership, which is co-chaired by UNFPA and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

28. Achieving the goals of the partnership will be critical to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and rights by 2030, as laid out in Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 5. The partnership also supports and is aligned with the Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health (2016-2030).

29. In 2016, the Foundation provided a grant of $200,000 through UNFIP to UNFPA to implement a project to expand the capacity of and access to high-quality family planning services and to support the provision of free male condoms in Nepal, in particular for the most vulnerable and hard to reach communities affected by the earthquake of 2015 and its aftermath. Moreover, the Foundation provided a grant of $120,000 through UNFIP to UNFPA to support a project intended to increase access to modern contraceptives and their use by unmarried young migrant workers in industrial zones of Viet Nam.

C. Energy and climate

30. Since its inception, the United Nations Foundation has been working closely with the United Nations to help to achieve progress towards a safer, cleaner, more equitable and climate-friendly energy future. The Foundation has championed action on a range of global climate and energy issues, especially through its support for the Sustainable Energy for All initiative, launched by the Secretary-General in 2011 and now an international not-for-profit organization. In 2016, the Foundation continued its support for that initiative and the energy access agenda more broadly through the following three sub-initiatives:

(a) **Energy for Women's and Children's Health.** Through this initiative, the Foundation works with the United Nations and its partners to increase access to power in health facilities in developing countries as a means of improving the availability and quality of health services, in particular for women and children. Launched in 2013 in partnership with WHO and UN-Women, the aim of the initiative is to increase awareness of the importance of electrifying health-care facilities for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, strengthen the enabling environment for health facility electrification and foster innovation in the delivery of energy solutions for health facilities. In this context, the Foundation, with funding support from the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is working to deploy solar energy solutions in rural health facilities in Ghana and Uganda. As part of this project, the Foundation provided a grant of $500,000 through UNFIP to WHO to evaluate the impact of the health facility electrification activities supported by the Foundation and to assess the impact of those interventions on health service delivery outcomes;

(b) **Energy Access Practitioner Network.** Established in 2011, the Network is a platform developed by the United Nations Foundation that supports the development of a thriving global distributed energy sector as an important contribution to the achievement of universal energy access. It provides a network for addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by the sector and serves as conduit for coordination between practitioners, the United Nations and Sustainable Energy for All. In 2016, the Network collaborated with the latter to design its fifth annual survey focused on financing flows in the sector. It also seeks to facilitate access to sustainable energy solutions in humanitarian and conflict settings, where market-driven approaches may not be appropriate, and serves on the Steering Committee of the Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Humanitarian Working Group, initiated by UNHCR;

(c) **Clean Energy Mini-grids Partnership.** The Foundation helps to lead a partnership of more than 300 organizations from the United Nations (e.g., the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)), the private sector, the public sector and civil society. The Partnership uses the international framework of Sustainable Energy for All to enable, enhance and promote existing and upcoming efforts in the mini-grids sector, with a view to increasing the rate of deployment and market transformation impact.

D. Advocacy, communications and other United Nations support

31. In addition to its financial support in the programmatic areas of global health, women and girls and climate and energy, the United Nations Foundation directs grants and other communications, advocacy and collaborative efforts to support the work of the United Nations. In 2016, these efforts included channelling resources to

United Nations entities through targeted fiduciaries, supporting United Nations capacity and creating and engaging in advocacy platforms and tools to support a robust global communications strategy around the 2030 Agenda and supporting key drivers of its implementation, such as data, by housing a select number of multi-stakeholder initiatives. Below is a sample of these activities, including those that resulted in funding flowing to the United Nations through UNFIP.

United Nations fiduciaries

32. Many agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations lack a functioning United States-based charitable organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, thereby making it difficult for them to compete for tax-deductible contributions from United States companies or companies with affiliates in that country, as well as from United States citizens. As a United States public charity and fiscal agent for receiving and disbursing such contributions through UNFIP, the Foundation is well suited to assist the United Nations in that regard. Over the years, a number of United Nations entities have requested the assistance of the Foundation as a fiduciary or fiscal agent to receive and disburse contributions from corporations and private individuals in support of their specific campaigns and programmes.

33. In 2016, the Foundation, through UNFIP, provided $153,190 in funding to four United Nations entities through fiduciary channels. Specifically, $17,199 was provided to the voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking, especially women and children, of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; $19,632 was provided as part of mobilizing voluntary contributions to the Central Emergency Response Fund of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; $57,859 was provided to the Global Partnership to Stop Tuberculosis managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services; and $58,500 was provided to the Mine Action Service programme on protecting civilians against the threat of illegal weapons and explosive hazards in Kitshanga, North Kivu Province, in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.

United Nations capacity

Support to the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Climate Change Support Team

34. The year 2016 was critical for setting the pace of progress for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement in an integrated manner. In 2016, the Foundation channelled a project grant of $700,000, which was funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through UNFIP to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to support the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The aim of the grant was to enhance the capacity of the Special Adviser and his team to engage with national Governments and conduct global outreach ensuring that information about the 2030 Agenda was widely dispersed and accessible, through the involvement of civil society, businesses, the communications sector, social media, academic institutions and international bodies.

35. An additional grant of $93,000 funded by the Lear Family Foundation was channelled by the United Nations Foundation through UNFIP to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to support the Climate Change Support Team with regard to the early ratification and entry into force of the Paris Agreement.

Transition support

36. In 2016, the Foundation supported the transition team established by the then Secretary-General-elect to help him to prepare for the assumption of his duties on 1 January 2017.

Support for United Nations information centres

37. In 2016, the Foundation provided the Department of Public Information with a grant of $100,000 through UNFIP to strengthen the capacity of the United Nations information centres to promote the Sustainable Development Goals. This support consisted of a workshop in New York on communicating information about the Goals, a training session in Senegal on communicating as one United Nations for French-speaking staff and targeted support for individual information centres.

SDG Philanthropy Platform

38. Launched in 2014, the SDG Philanthropy Platform is a global initiative that connects philanthropic organizations with knowledge and networks to deepen collaboration, leverage resources and maintain progress for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Platform acts as a facilitator, connecting philanthropic organizations to key stakeholders, processes and policies driving the implementation of the Goals within national development planning, and is implemented by UNDP, Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and the Foundation Center.

39. The Foundation provided UNDP with a grant of $49,680 through UNFIP to support global coordination activities for the Platform managed by UNDP, including the expansion of the Platform to five new countries (China, India and three countries in the Middle East and North Africa region) and the development of road maps to bring solutions relating to the Sustainable Development Goals to scale.

Global Pulse

40. The Secretary-General launched Global Pulse in 2009 to support the United Nations system in leveraging the power of big data and artificial intelligence to inform development and humanitarian efforts. Global Pulse is an inter-agency initiative designed to contribute to the "Delivering as one" approach to strengthen the capacity of Governments to measure development effectiveness and the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. Global Pulse partners with United Nations agencies, governments, academic institutions and the private sector to develop and mainstream approaches for applying real-time digital data to development and humanitarian challenges.

41. In 2016, with funding support from the Vodafone Americas Foundation, the United Nations Foundation provided a project grant of $93,000 to Global Pulse through UNFIP to expand global awareness and understanding of the value of mobile phone data to support development and to further catalyse investment and action by the telecommunications industry. Global Pulse has been reviewing the landscape through primary and secondary research, resulting in a report, *The State of Mobile Data for Social Good*, which was published in 2017.

Instant Network Schools programme

42. The United Nations Foundation, with funding support from the Vodafone Americas Foundation, also provided UNHCR with a grant of $606,000 through UNFIP in support of the Instant Network Schools programme, the aim of which is to deliver education programmes for children in refugee camps by facilitating access to

the Internet and technology. UNHCR estimates that only 76 per cent of displaced children are accessing primary learning and that just over one quarter are enrolled in high school, resulting in millions of pupils who have not gained the most basic literacy and numeracy skills. Providing access to technology and the Internet is crucial to enhancing education programmes in refugee camps and to achieving higher learning outcomes. Through this project, UNHCR and the Vodafone Americas Foundation worked together to establish and replicate the programme as an integral part of the UNHCR Education Strategy 2012-2016, with a goal of reaching more than 66,000 refugee children by 2018.

Communications

Seventh annual Social Good Summit

43. The Social Good Summit is a unique convening of prominent global leaders, new media and technology experts, grass-roots activists and voices from around the world to examine the impact of technology and new media on social good. With the theme "Connecting today, creating tomorrow: #2030 now", the 2016 Summit was held on 18 and 19 September and hosted in collaboration with UNDP, Mashable and 92Y. The event managed to reach, using the #2030NOW hashtag, more than 270 million people in over 80 countries.

Global Moms Challenge

44. The Global Moms Challenge is an advocacy initiative created by the Foundation in 2011 to support the health and well-being of mothers and children by connecting mothers in the United States to their peers worldwide, in support of the Every Woman, Every Child initiative. The initiative consists of the Moms +Social Good annual event and the Global Moms Relay, a digital media campaign to amplify the conversation about the challenges faced by mothers.

45. Through the 2016 edition of the Global Moms Relay, the Foundation, with funding support from Johnson & Johnson, provided UNICEF with a grant of $100,000 through UNFIP in support of a neonatal intensive care unit for critically ill newborns at the Yekatit 12 hospital in Addis Ababa. The hospital will serve as the first standard training site for neonatal intensive care in Ethiopia.

Sixty-sixth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference

46. In 2016, the Foundation provided the Department of Public Information with a grant of $25,000 through UNFIP for the sixty-sixth Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, on the theme "Education for global citizenship: achieving the Sustainable Development Goals together", held from 30 May to 1 June 2016 in Gyeongju, Republic of Korea. Co-sponsored by the Executive Committee and hosted by the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Conference served as an important opportunity to mobilize global civil society around the Sustainable Development Goals and was the first of its kind to be held in Asia. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the Gyeongju Action Plan.

Housing multi-stakeholder initiatives

47. The Foundation serves as an institutional home for several independent multi-stakeholder initiatives that advance United Nations goals and priorities. These include:

(a) **Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves.** The Alliance is a public-private initiative hosted by the United Nations Foundation to save lives, improve

livelihoods, empower women and protect the environment by creating a thriving global market for clean and efficient household cooking solutions. The Alliance works in close partnership with WHO and UNEP, among other United Nations entities, and has a 10-year goal to foster the adoption of clean cookstoves and fuels in 100 million households by 2020. Since its launch in 2010, the Alliance and its partners have strengthened the clean cooking sector and elevated the issue, leading to the distribution of more than 53 million clean and/or efficient cookstoves and fuels. In 2016, the Alliance, with its partners, successfully advocated the inclusion of indicators on clean cooking and household air pollution to track progress towards the attainment of multiple Sustainable Development Goals. In excess of 50 countries currently include household cooking energy in their nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, which demonstrates increasing interest in clean cooking to deliver health and climate benefits;

(b) **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data.** The United Nations Foundation was selected in November 2015 to serve as the institutional home for the secretariat of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, which was launched in September 2015. The Partnership is a multi-stakeholder network with more than 100 members from Governments, international organizations, companies, civil society and the statistics and data communities. The aim of the partnership is to fill critical data gaps and ensure that data are more accurate, timely, open and useable for the measurement and achievement of inclusive and sustainable development. The Partnership serves as a convener, connector and catalyst, building trust and encouraging collaboration between stakeholders across sectors towards achieving these aims;

(c) **Data2X.** Launched in July 2012, Data2X is a collaborative technical and advocacy platform that works with United Nations agencies, Governments, civil society and the private sector to close gender data gaps, promote expanded and unbiased gender data collection and use gender data to improve policies, strategies and decision-making. It is hosted by the United Nations Foundation with support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Data2X is also a gender data lead for the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data;

(d) **Digital Impact Alliance.** The Alliance is a partnership between the United States Agency for International Development, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Sweden and the United Nations Foundation, the aim of which is to bring together the public and private sectors to realize an inclusive digital society that connects everyone to life-enhancing and life-enabling technology.

II. United Nations Democracy Fund

48. The United Nations Democracy Fund was established during the 2005 World Summit as a United Nations general trust fund and launched in April 2006, with the United Nations Office for Partnerships/UNFIP providing administrative support and sharing resources. Since then, the grant-making body has become clearly defined as a fund for civil society organizations. It is the only United Nations entity that has the word "democracy" in its name, the only United Nations body with the primary purpose of supporting democracy by empowering civil society and one of the youngest entities in the United Nations system. The large majority of project funds go to local civil society organizations in countries in both the transition and consolidation phases of democratization. By supporting the "demand" rather than the "supply" side of democratization, the Fund plays a new, distinct and unique role in complementing and enhancing the more traditional work of the United Nations —

the work with Governments — to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

49. In the years since its creation, the Fund has experienced considerable growth in its portfolio, its donor base, its impact and its visibility. The aim of its projects is to strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. In its first 10 rounds of funding, the Fund supported almost 700 projects in more than 130 countries, with a total disbursement of some $166 million. The projects ranged from supporting civil society efforts for accountability and transparency to building capacity for strengthening good governance and the rule of law.

A. Tenth round of funding

50. The call for project proposals for the Fund's tenth round was open from 15 November to 31 December 2015. The Fund received 2,663 project proposals from civil society, reflecting the continued high demand for support from the Fund to finance projects that strengthen the voice of civil society, promote human rights and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. The proposals originated from organizations in 143 countries, the vast majority of them local non-governmental organizations in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

51. The response added to the considerable growth that the Fund has experienced since its creation in 2005, with initiatives that reflect a focus on strengthening the voice of civil society, thereby increasing concentration on the demand side of democracy, rather than on the supply side.

52. In the tenth round, 49 projects were funded at a total cost of $10,181,000. As defined by their key activities, the projects are disaggregated as follows:

(a) Youth engagement (35 per cent);

(b) Rule of law and human rights (14 per cent);

(c) Community activism (8 per cent);

(d) Strengthening interaction with Governments (12 per cent);

(e) Media and freedom of information (8 per cent);

(f) Empowerment of women (21 per cent);

(g) Tools for knowledge (2 per cent).

B. Donor base

53. The cumulative total amount of contributions received from 2005 to 2016 exceeded $179 million.

C. Evaluation

54. The Fund's contracted firm of internationally renowned evaluators, Transtec, had completed 200 post-project evaluations by the end of 2016. The vast majority of the evaluations were positive, while also providing valuable lessons learned for the Fund's knowledge management. The Fund published all post-project evaluations on its public website, as decided by its Advisory Board. In that way, the Fund consolidated its position as one of the most transparent entities within the United

Nations system. A revised post-project evaluation strategy was approved by the Board in November 2016. The revised strategy is designed to make better use of local and regional expertise and to ensure that the lessons learned from evaluations are embedded in the Fund's own capacity.

D. Governance

55. The two governing mechanisms of the Fund, the Advisory Board and the Programme Consultative Group, continued to play an active and guiding role during 2016. In addition to recommending funding proposals for approval by the Secretary-General, the Board provided the Secretary-General with policy guidance on the development of programme frameworks and funding guidelines. The Group provided input and quality control in the project selection process and the implementation phase, making use of the specific expertise of each of its entities: the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Peacebuilding Support Office, UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women. The Fund also benefits from the advice and support of the resident coordinators in the field for input into the project selection process and support with monitoring the implementation of projects.

E. Eleventh round of funding

56. The Fund launched its eleventh round of calls for project proposals in November 2016. When applications closed, on 18 December 2016, the Fund had received 3,002 proposals, the vast majority of applications from local or regional civil society organizations in Africa, Asia, the Americas, the Arab region and Eastern Europe. In accordance with the annual timetable adhered to by the Fund, the applications were assessed by March 2016 and the Advisory Board recommended a shortlist in April, after which the Fund advised the permanent missions of those Member States in which listed projects were to take place. The shortlist was then submitted to the Secretary-General for approval. Short-listed applicants were to be asked to submit draft project documents by the middle of 2017 to be negotiated with the Fund. The first tranches of project funding are to be disbursed from September, once again in a timeline that compares favourably with international standards.

F. Democracy in action

57. Examples of the Fund's projects are the following:

(a) **Development pacts: an accountability tool in the hands of local communities in Kyrgyzstan.** The aim of this project was to better involve the rural population of Kyrgyzstan in the identification of local service needs by developing and using development pacts between voluntary citizen committees and local authorities. The pacts were created by the project in collaboration with local authorities, so as to ensure better participation and transparency in governance. Three years after the end of the project, pacts continue to be used in rural Kyrgyzstan, and other countries have replicated the experience of the project;

(b) **Grass-roots gender accountability in Uganda.** The project helped women district councilors to acquire skills and knowledge to promote the equality agenda with policymakers. The project's advocacy activities led to improved gender-sensitive service delivery, as the local government budgeted for enhanced services for women and girls. Two years after the end of the project, the

Government announced that gender-sensitive indicators would be used to ensure that all sectors incorporated gender equality into decision-making and service delivery in the country. An independent evaluation highlighted that in addition to having contributed to the legislative process with a detailed review of the gender-sensitivity of four draft bills, the grantee's most remarkable achievement under the activity was the newly introduced legal requirement that future drafts of the country's annual budget be certified as gender-sensitive before parliamentary approval;

(c) **Strengthening municipal capacity for access to public information in El Salvador.** The project had a strong impact on improving how local administrations could implement the enforcement of the Act on Access to Public Information. Training and advocacy raised the profile of the Act and led to it being placed high on the local political agenda. An evaluation of the project concluded that it had led to the creation of the country's first diploma on transparency, providing opportunities to train civil servants and municipal employees on the Act. That the project was financed by the United Nations helped to generate interest in the programme and to convince public institutions and other relevant actors to take part.

III. Partnership advisory and outreach services

58. Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalized and enhanced global partnership that brings together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizes all available resources. Building upon the success of the Millennium Development Goals, this new development agenda is the international community's primary guide for sustainable development in the years to come. Like never before, the sustainability aspects of development are considered a primary concern at the local, national, regional and international levels.

59. The 2030 Agenda includes Sustainable Development Goal 17, on revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development. Goal 17 calls for enhanced global partnerships for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Goals. In furtherance of the 2030 Agenda, the United Nations Office for Partnerships facilitates the engagement of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic leaders in the work of the United Nations system through partnership advisory services and the convening of events that promote cross-sector dialogue, outreach and the catalysing of new partnership initiatives.

60. In 2016, a wide range of companies, foundations and civil society organizations approached the United Nations Office for Partnerships to explore opportunities for engagement with the United Nations. Most enquiries were related to mapping specific paths of engagement and identifying partners within the United Nations system with which to collaborate for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to learn about partnership opportunities relating to the 2030 Agenda.

61. Selected key partnership projects and initiatives are listed below.

2016 Investor Summit on Climate Risk

62. On 27 January 2016, Ceres, the United Nations Foundation and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the 2016 Investor Summit on

Climate Risk, held at Headquarters. Held every two years at the United Nations since 2003, the Summit is an important forum that enables institutional investors to discuss the implications of climate change for capital markets and their portfolios.

63. The Summit brought together investors and business leaders to discuss the far-reaching implications of the Paris Agreement. The core focus of the event was on how best to accelerate the shift to a clean energy future and to tackle the impact of climate change effectively. Summit topics included opportunities to expand clean energy investment in developed and developing countries and possible solutions to mitigate carbon asset risks.

International Women's Day Forum 2016

64. In consultation with UN-Women, the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation Corporate Citizen Center jointly convened the International Women's Day Forum on the theme "The business of inclusion: global prosperity through women and girls empowerment". This annual event was held on 7 March 2016 at Headquarters, ahead of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. The Forum brought together more than 400 leaders from the private sector, non-governmental organizations and multilateral institutions to explore practices to empower girls and women in businesses and focused on the role of businesses in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 5, on gender equality.

ID2020 Summit 2016

65. The Summit was jointly convened on 20 May 2016 at Headquarters by the United Nations Office for Partnerships and ID2020, a non-profit, global initiative launched in response to target 16.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals: "By 2030, provide legal identity to all, including birth registration". The main theme of the Summit was "Harnessing digital identity for the global community". In the context of the 2030 Agenda, the Summit provided a platform for a focused discussion on the need to enable people who suffer political, social and economic exclusion to obtain legal identity. It brought together leaders of and representatives from the private sector, Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, in addition to policy analysts and thought leaders, to build cross-sectoral partnerships that will help to provide vulnerable populations with legal identity by 2030.

2016 Partnership Exchange

66. On the occasion of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Office for Partnerships jointly convened the first Partnership Exchange event of 2016 on 18 July at Headquarters. The three main objectives of the event were: to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, to provide a learning platform for multi-stakeholder partnership commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals and to share knowledge and expertise to support the achievement of the Goals. The event brought together almost 500 participants and high-level speakers and featured partnerships such as the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, the Global Initiative for Child Health and Mobility, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the Small Island States Resilience Initiative. The participants included representatives of multi-stakeholder partnerships, Governments and the United Nations, major groups and other stakeholders.

Permanent memorial at the United Nations to the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade

67. The permanent memorial, *Ark of Return*, was unveiled on 25 March 2015. The memorial, located at the Visitors Plaza at Headquarters, invites people to contemplate the legacy of the slave trade and to combat racism and prejudice today. In 2016, the United Nations Office for Partnerships continued to support the permanent memorial project and administer the trust fund account. In accordance with the agreement with the Permanent Memorial Committee, the Office issued the related report of the Secretary-General (A/71/170).

IV. Conclusions

68. Mr. Turner's historic philanthropic contribution through the United Nations Foundation and UNFIP has contributed significantly to an increased mobilization of resources and a growth in the number of multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the goals of the United Nations.

69. The United Nations Democracy Fund is now 12 years old and has proved to be a highly innovative and effective initiative. It has successfully complemented the work of many United Nations agencies that concentrate on the "supply" side of democratic institutions by focusing on the "demand" side through grants to local civil society organizations.

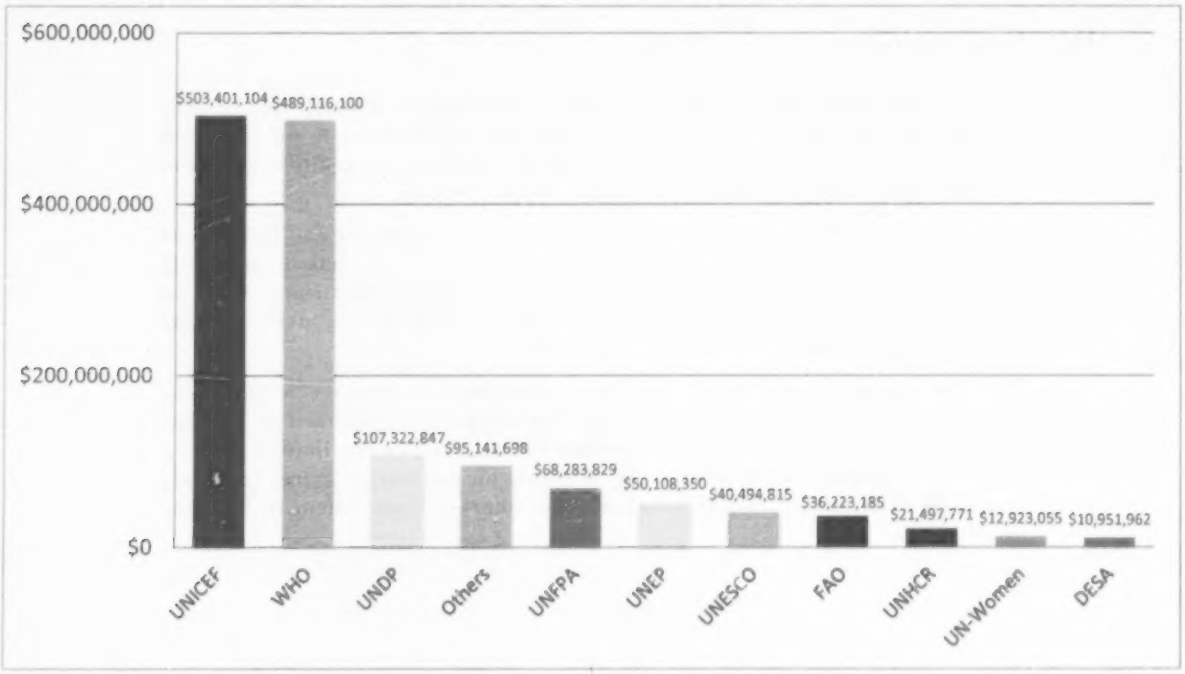
70. The operation of UNFIP and the Fund remains the core work of the United Nations Office for Partnerships. The Office has continued to convene events to increase awareness and mobilize action towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and provide advisory services to a wide range of public and private stakeholders that share a commitment to realizing the 2030 Agenda.

Annex I

United Nations Fund for International Partnerships: distribution of funds and projects

A. Cumulative allocations approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2016, distributed by implementing partners

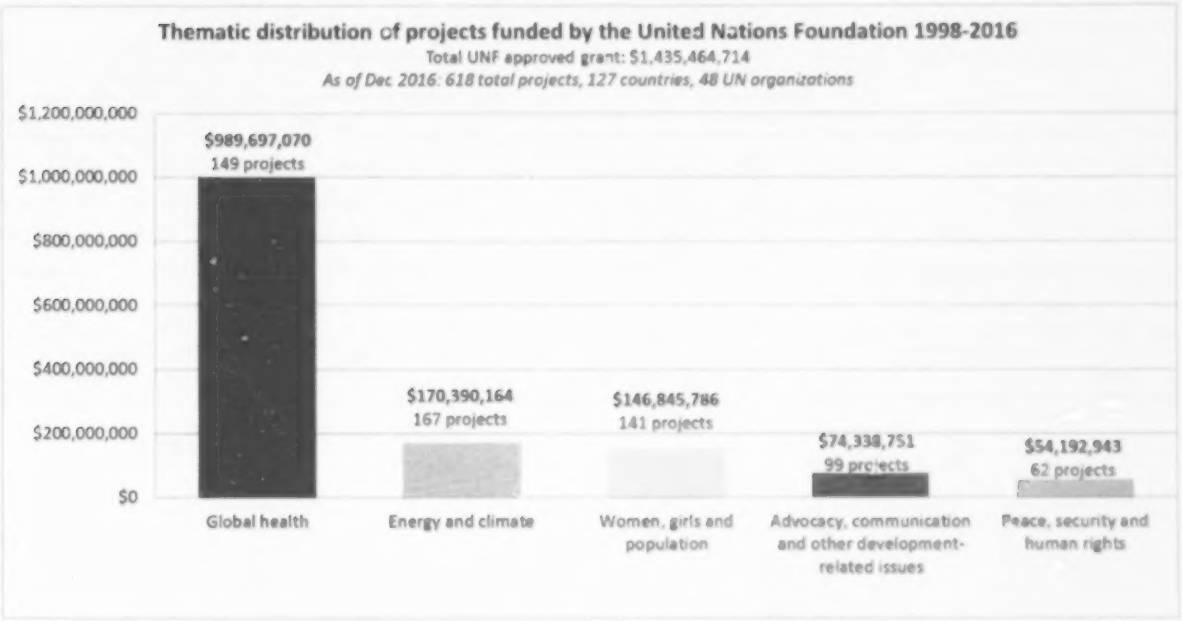
($1,435,464,714)



Abbreviations: DESA, Department of Economic and Social Affairs; FAO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; UNDP, United Nations Development Programme; UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme; UNESCO, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; UNFPA, United Nations Population Fund; UNHCR, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNICEF, United Nations Children's Fund; UN-Women, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women; WHO, World Health Organization.

B. Thematic distribution of projects approved by the United Nations Foundation, 1998-2016

($1,435,464,714)



Annex II

Projects approved by the United Nations Foundation in 2016 and in prior years, by programme area

(United States dollars)

	1988-2015		*2016*		*1998-2016*	
Programme area	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*	*Number of projects*	*Value*
Global health	143	966 833 216	6	22 863 854	149	989 697 070
Energy and climate	166	169 890 164	1	500 000	167	170 390 164
Women, girls and population	134	144 975 786	7	1 870 000	141	146 845 786
Peace, security and human rights	62	54 192 943			62	54 192 943
Advocacy, communication, and other development-related issues	87	71 073 332	12	3 265 419	99	74 338 751
Total	**592**	**1 406 965 441**	**26**	**28 499 273**	**618**	**1 435 464 714**

Annex III

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships in 2016

Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General (Chair)

Oh Joon, President of the Economic and Social Council (until 27 July 2016)

Frederick Musiiwa Makamure Shava, President of the Economic and Social Council (since 28 July 2016)

Andrej Logar, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (until 12 September 2016)

Dian Triansyah Djani, Chair of the Second Committee of the General Assembly (since 13 September 2016)

Yukio Takasu, Under-Secretary-General for Management

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Susan M. Davis, former President and Chief Executive Officer, BRAC USA

Luis A. Ubiñas, President of the Board of Trustees, Pan American Development Foundation

Bruce Usher, Faculty Director, Social Enterprise Program, Columbia Business School

Ann de la Roche (member, ex-officio), Officer-in-Charge, United Nations Office for Partnerships

Annex IV

Financial contributions to the United Nations Democracy Fund, by donor, as at 27 March 2017

(United States dollars)

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Algeria	100 000
Argentina	30 000
Australia	9 212 424
Bulgaria	10 000
Canada	754 935
Chile	380 000
Croatia	71 000
Cyprus	5 000
Czechia	205 602
Denmark	265 018
Ecuador	5 000
Estonia	10 395
France	4 793 716
Georgia	24 943
Germany	20 006 910
Hungary	75 000
India	31 912 543
Iraq	5 000
Ireland	658 724
Israel	57 500
Italy	2 947 800
Japan	10 180 000
Latvia	15 000
Libya	15 000
Lithuania	49 332
Madagascar	5 000
Malta	11 347
Mongolia	10 000
Morocco	5 000
Panama	34 500
Peru	90 849
Poland	710 664
Portugal	150 000
Qatar	10 000 000
Republic of Korea	1 100 000
Romania	472 860
Senegal	100 000
Slovakia	16,773

Donor	*Cumulative contribution received*
Slovenia	127 924
Spain	5 043 311
Sri Lanka	5 000
Sweden	20 397 686
Turkey	280 000
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	683 653
United States of America	60 076 000
Other	2 230
Total	**181 113 639**

Annex V

Composition of the Advisory Board of the United Nations Democracy Fund in 2016

Member States

Algeria

Australia

Barbados

Colombia

Germany

India

Japan

Nigeria

Poland

Slovakia

Sri Lanka

Sweden

United States of America

Non-governmental organizations

International Center for Not-for-Profit Law

TECHO

Individuals

Aracelly Santana

Marjorie Tiven

Jeffrey Wright